



# LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING APRIL 17, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District met at the Lower Platte South NRD Office on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Directors participating were Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum. Landis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Landis welcomed those in attendance, and the pledge of allegiance was recited. He noted that the public meetings law is posted in the room and that carrying concealed weapons is prohibited at board meetings and on District property. He requested all cell phones be put on silent mode. He reminded everyone a recording of the meeting will be on the NRD website. Landis requested anyone wishing to speak on an agenda item to provide their name on the sign-in sheet and which agenda item they wished to speak on. An opportunity for the public to speak to non-agenda items was given.

Director candidates Carla McCullough-Dittman, Subdistrict #1 and Martin Nader, Subdistrict #4, introduced themselves to the Board.

Chair Landis introduced new employee Eric Zach, Resources Conservationist, to the Board.

### ITEM 1. ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Twenty` Directors were present upon roll call.

### ITEM 2. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING

Landis reported that the legal notice for the Directors' Meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on April 4, 2024.

### ITEM 3. CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTORS' ABSENCES

Landis stated that there was a request for an excused absence from Stacie Sinclair for the April 17, 2024 Board of Directors meeting.

It was moved by Landis and seconded by Jacobson to accept the request for an excused absence from Stacie Sinclair for the April 17, 2024 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

ITEM 4. ADOPT AGENDA

It was moved by Landis and seconded by Stevens to adopt the Agenda. The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: Spangler

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Landis and seconded by Hawkins to approve the Minutes of the March 20, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting. The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Landis, Lewis, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens and Vogel

ABSTAIN: Eagan, Lamberty, Peterson and Yoakum

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

ITEM 6. REPORT OF THE FINANCE & PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Johnson stated that the Finance & Planning Subcommittee met on April 10, 2024

Johnson stated that the financial reports for the period July 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024 had been distributed.

It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Andersen to approve the financial reports for the period of July 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024 and publish the "Expenditures without Director's expenditures" for March 2024.

Mike Sousek, General Manager, and David Potter, Assistant General Manager, answered questions from the Board regarding the financial reports.

The motion was approved.

AYE: Andersen, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: Aldridge and Baker

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Seacrest to publish the "Director Group 1" (Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich and Jacobson) expenditures for March 2024. The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

ABSTAIN: Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich and Jacobson

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

It was moved by Landis and seconded by Green to publish the "Director Group 2" (Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth and Schutz) expenditures for March 2024. The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

ABSTAIN: Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth and Schutz

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Peterson to publish the "Director Group 3" (Seacrest, Sinclair, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum) expenditures for March 2024.

Chris Barber, Administration and Finance Manager, answered questions of the Board regarding Group #3 expenditures.

The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth and Schutz

ABSTAIN: Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

Johnson moved the Finance & Planning Subcommittee's recommendation that the Board of Directors approve that the Lower Platte South NRD begin using the NFIT investment option and sweep services provided by Union Bank & Trust. Further, staff is directed to keep the general checking account balance at a certain threshold and manually move funds to NPAIT or NE Class Investment options once a balance between \$500,000 and \$575,000 is met or exceeded minus any upcoming expenditures.

Mike Sousek, General Manager and Corey Wasserburger, Legal Counsel, answered questions of the Board regarding the NFIT investment option.

The motion was approved.

AYE: Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: None

VOTING PRESENT: Aldridge

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

#### ITEM 7. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Landis stated that the Executive Subcommittee met on April 8, 2024.

Landis moved the Executive Subcommittee's recommendation that the Board of Directors approve the 2025 Operational Agreement between LPSNRD and USDA / NRCS.

Mike Sousek, General Manager, answered questions of the Board regarding the Operational Agreement.

The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

Landis moved the Executive Subcommittee's recommendation that the Board of Directors adopt Personnel Policy #10 – Termination of Employment as presented.

Mike Sousek, General Manager, answered questions of the Board regarding Personnel Policy #10 – Termination of Employment.

The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

Landis moved the Executive Subcommittee's recommendation that the Board of Directors adopt Personnel Policy #13 – Pay Period as presented.

Mike Sousek, General Manager, answered questions of the Board regarding Personnel Policy #13 – Pay Period.

The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

Landis moved the Executive Subcommittee's recommendation that the Board of Directors adopt Personnel Policy #36 – Employee Wellness Program as presented.

Mike Sousek, General Manager, answered questions of the Board regarding Personnel Policy #36 – Employee Wellness Program.

The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

Landis moved the Executive Subcommittee's recommendation that the Board of Directors adopt Operating Policy G-8 – No Smoking or Alcohol as presented.

It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Johnson to amend the motion to say: Alcohol consumption and intoxication is prohibited in all District offices, buildings, vehicles and properties that are managed by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.

Corey Wasserburger, Legal Counsel and David Potter, Assistant General Manager, answered questions of the Board regarding Operating Policy G-8 – No Smoking or Alcohol.

The motion failed.

AYE: Aldridge, Peterson

NAY: Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

It was moved by Vogel and seconded by Yoakum to table to motion regarding Operating Policy G-8 – No Smoking or Alcohol and refer it back to the Executive Subcommittee to be reexamined. The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: Andersen, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Lewis, Spangler and Stevens

NOT PRESENT: Baker and Sinclair

Landis moved the Executive Subcommittee's recommendation that the Board of Directors approve a 2.75% cost of living adjustment to salaries for all classifications of employees that will take effect on July 1, 2024.

It was moved by Landis and seconded by Andersen to amend the motion by substituting 2.84% for 2.75%.

Mike Sousek, General Manager, answered questions from the Board regarding the cost of living adjustments.

The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

The amended motion to approve a 2.84% cost of living adjustment to salaries for all classifications of employees that will take effect on July 1, 2024 was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

Landis moved the Executive Subcommittee's recommendation that the Board of Directors approve that the General Manager execute a contract with Rembolt Ludtke LLP for training purposes. The motion was approved.

AYE: Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum  
 NAY: Aldridge  
 NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

ITEM 8. REPORT OF THE RECREATION, FORESTRY & WILDLIFE SUBCOMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Lamberty stated that the Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee met on April 9, 2024.

Lamberty moved the Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee’s recommendation that the Board of Directors approve the appraised value and authorize District staff to acquire a conservation easement from the National Audubon Society, Inc.

Will Inselman, Resources Coordinator, answered questions of the Board regarding the conservation easement with the National Audubon Society.

The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum  
 NAY: Hellerich  
 NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

ITEM 9. REPORT OF THE LAND RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Jacobson stated that the Land Resources Subcommittee did not meet prior to the Board meeting. He reported that eight cost-share applications have been received for installing water quality improvement practices for the NRD’s Summer Conservation Program. The applications were reviewed by the Eastern and Western Review Groups and meet the criteria for the Cost-Share Program.

Applicant Name	SEC	TWN	RNG	County	Practice	Amount	Targeted Area
Richard Hauptman	22	12	12	Cass	Terraces	\$20,000.00	
Edwin A. Group	22	12	12	Cass	Terraces	\$20,000.00	
Sharon Hansen	13	11	11	Cass	Terraces	\$20,000.00	
Lake Family Farm LLC	33	11	10	Cass	Terraces	\$14,355.00	
George Klein	33	11	14	Cass	Terraces	\$20,000.00	
Clayton Maahs	3	9	8	Lancaster	Terraces	\$25,000.00	Stevens Creek
Marilyn Kirchhoff	3	9	8	Lancaster	Terraces	\$10,759.00	Stevens Creek
Roger L. Bruner	20	10	5	Lancaster	Grassed Water Ways	\$7,218.00	
						<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$137,332</b>

It was moved by Jacobson and seconded by Stevens to approve the eight identified Surface Water Quality BMP cost-share applications for summer work totaling \$137,332. The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: Spangler

NOT PRESENT: Lamberty and Sinclair

10. REPORT OF THE PLATTE RIVER SUBCOMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Vogel stated that the Platte River Subcommittee met on April 11, 2024.

Vogel moved the Platte River Subcommittee's recommendation that the Board of Directors approve and authorize the General Manager to sign the Amendment to the Second Amended Interlocal Agreement with Pappio-Missouri River NRD and Lower Platte North NRD for the Lower Platte River Phragmites Management Program.

David Potter, Assistant General Manager, answered questions of the Board regarding the Lower Platte River Phragmites Management Program Agreement.

The motion was approved.

AYE: Aldridge, Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Sinclair

ITEM 11. ITEMS REQUIRING CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Andersen and seconded by Landis to go into closed session at 9:08 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person. The motion was approved.

AYE: Andersen, Baker, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: Aldridge

NOT PRESENT: Jacobson and Sinclair

It was moved by Andersen and seconded by Spangler to return to open session at 10:52 p.m.

AYE: Andersen, Baker, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Spangler, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: Aldridge

NOT PRESENT: Eagan and Sinclair

It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Seacrest that the Board of Directors follow strategy #23. The motion was approved.

AYE: Andersen, Eagan, Green, Hawkins, Hellerich, Jacobson, Johnson, Lamberty, Landis, Lewis, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, Seacrest, Stevens, Vogel and Yoakum

NAY: Spangler

VOTING PRESENT: Aldridge

NOT PRESENT: Baker and Sinclair

ITEM 12. NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS (NARD) REPORT

Tom Green stated that Director Yoakum would be attending the NARD Board Meeting in June. He reported that he would be making remarks at the tree planting ceremony at the Capitol on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> which is Arbor Day.

ITEM 13. PERMIT AND PROGRAM APPROVALS

A report of permit and program approvals was distributed.

ITEM 14. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

A schedule of upcoming events and activities was mailed out.

ITEM 15. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Various memos were mailed out.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 p.m. The undersigned, the duly elected and acting Secretary of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (the "District"), hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held on April 17, 2024 that all of the matters and subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the above minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurred earlier; and, that reasonable efforts were made to provide all news media requesting notification of the meeting and of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

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Lisa Lewis, Secretary

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